

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEDELL 00230 012156Z

66

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COA-02 L-03 H-03 SCA-01

PRS-01 CG-00 JUSE-00 /038 W

----- 115400

R 012040Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 666

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS MEDELLIN 0230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: DETENTION OF AMERICAN M/V SEAQUEST IN TURBO, COLOMBIA

REF: MEDELLIN 219, STATE 191607, TEGUCIGALPA 3702

1. M/V SEAQUEST IS STILL BEING HELD IN TURBO PENDING RESOLUTION OF FOUR SEPARATE PROBLEMS:

A. THE PORT CAPTAIN IS INVESTIGATING WHY THE BOAT IS IN TURBO AT ALL, AND WHY IT ARRIVED WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION. THIS MATTER SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THREE DAYS AND WILL PROBABLY BE SETTLED UPON PAYMENT OF A FINE.

B. A COMPLAINT WAS FILED BY THE CAPTAIN OF A TUGBOAT AGAINST THE SEAQUEST ALLEGING THAT HE WAS FORCED AT GUNPOINT TO BOARD THE VESSEL AND RENDER ASSISTANCE WHEN THE SEAQUEST RAN AGROUND OFF THE COLOMBIAN COAST. THIS INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE CRIMINAL INSTRUCTION JUDGE IN TURBO AND MAY BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 5. UPON COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION, AND INDICTMENT MAY OR MAY NOT BE HANDED DOWN.

C. THE LOCAL POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING A ROBBERY COMMITTED ON THE BOAT WHILE IT WAS ANCHORED AT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT PIER. SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN DETAINED, BUT THE STOLEN MERCHANDISE HAS NOT BEEN RECOVERED.

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D. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES IN APARTADO, COLOMBIAN, JURISDICTION OVER TURBO, MUST RESOLVE THE STATUS OF THE FIVE CREWMEMBERS OF THE SEAQUEST, WHO ARE IN COLOMBIA WITHOUT PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION.

2. ALL FIVE CREWMEMBERS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE PORT AREA NOT UNDER ARREST OR CONFINED EITHER TO THE BOAT OR THE TURBO JAIL.

3. HARRY DONNER, OWNER OF THE SEAQUEST, SPOKE WITH VICE CONSUL TAYLOR ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, AND WAS TO RETURN TO THE CONSULATE ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 1, BUT HAS LEFT MEDELLIN LEAVING NO INDICATION OF HIS DESTINATION.

4. WILL ADVISE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.
TAYLOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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